



# ST. MATTHIAS CHURCH

*All are Welcome*

## St. Matthias Parish Office:

Open 8:30-6:00PM Mon-Fri  
168 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873,  
732-828-1400, fax: 732-828-0866,  
[www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net)

## Mass Schedule (in person):

Sat—5PM, Sun-10 AM & 12 noon

M/T/W/Th/F at 8:00AM

And also on our YouTube channel

## St. Matthias School (SMS):

170 JFK Boulevard, Somerset, NJ 08873  
732-828-1402; [www.stmatthias.info](http://www.stmatthias.info)

For all Parish emails, add [@stmatthias.net](mailto:@stmatthias.net)

Pastor: Rev Abraham Orapankal, [abraham](mailto:abraham)

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Msgr. Joseph Curry, [jcurry](mailto:jcurry)

### Pastoral Staff

Deacon Russell Demkovitz, [rдемkovitz](mailto:rдемkovitz)

Ana V Kelly, Marketing & Development, [akelly](mailto:akelly)

Dolores R. Nann, Faith Formation, [dнann](mailto:dнann)

Mary Beth Oria, Business Administrator, [morіa](mailto:morіa)

Deacon John Radvanski, [deaconjohn](mailto:deaconjohn)

Joan Best Seamon, Music Ministry [jseamon](mailto:jseamon)

Sr Marie Therese Sherwood, OSF, Social Concerns,  
[msherwood](mailto:msherwood)

Phyllis Stone, Liturgy/RCIA and Administrative  
Assistant to the Pastor, [pstone](mailto:pstone)

### St. Matthias School (add [@stmatthiasnj.org](mailto:@stmatthiasnj.org))

Elena Malinconico, Principal, [emalinconico](mailto:emalinconico)

Joseph Gidaro, Vice Principal, [jgidaro](mailto:jgidaro)

### Parish Office Staff

Kelly Counts, Day Receptionist

Nathalie Godet, Formation/Parish Support Sec.

Leslie Guillen, Bulletin Editor

Amy Hanna, Parish Support Secretary

Vinnie Natale, Bookkeeper

Trish Stumper, Parish Support Secretary

Make Lanyi, Sacristan

### Maintenance Staff

Julio Montero, Maintenance Supervisor

Conroy Davis, Custodian

Juan Diaz Flores, Custodian

Silvia Nizama, Housekeeper

## THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF ST. MATTHIAS

### SUNDAY, NOV 15, 2020 –

### Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### World Day of the Poor

#### Super 50-50 Drawing—

**NEXT Sunday, Nov. 22**, after the 10 am Mass, in the Church area. As of Wed, the amount is **\$22,434**.

**Last Chance to Place Super 50-50 tickets in the Collection basket — TODAY, Nov. 15.**

Deadline for buying Super 50-50 tickets is **2 pm, Thursday, November 19 in the Parish Office.**

**SMS Donor Prayer Service** —on YouTube, Friday, Nov. 20, 9 AM.

**Blessing of All Liturgical Ministers** at all Masses next weekend.

**Works of Mercy Campaign** next weekend.

**Liturgical Ministers Advent Day of Reflection**—Saturday, Nov. 21.



### Finance Council Report - November 11, 2020

Please see the separate four page report that is included with this weekend's bulletin. A copy will also be emailed with this week's **St. Matthias Family Connect (SMFC)** e-letter. Thank you to all of the ministries who compiled information for our "Parish and School at-a-glance" pages.

### New St. Matthias Website

We are happy to announce the launch of our new St. Matthias website! The URL is the same: [www.stmatthias.net](http://www.stmatthias.net) We hope you find the site to be helpful and user-friendly.

You will also notice that the "live" calendar is now visible on the Home Page. If you have not yet signed up for our weekly e-letter, **St. Matthias Family Connect**, just click on the "Subscribe" button (top, left corner on the Home Page) and follow the prompts.

If you are looking for our YouTube channel link, just click on:



If you are looking for our Facebook link, click on:



If you are looking for Mass times, click on "Mass" (top left).

The center part of the home page holds major items/quick-links with a "photo-button". This is similar to our banners on the old site.

Don't forget to check out the photos of 30 parishioners (at the top), taken by Deacon Ron Caimi. Questions? Contact Ana Kelly at [akelly@stmatthias.net](mailto:akelly@stmatthias.net) We hope you enjoy the site!



### Giving Tuesday 2020 — December 1, 2020

This year, St. Matthias will again focus our **GivingTuesday** campaign on our wonderful school! The specific area will be Interactive Display Technology for the classrooms. *More details next week!*

## This Week at St. Matthias

- **All Masses** will be celebrated **in-person** (overflow in the cafeteria).
- **Masses** will also be **livestreamed on our YouTube channel: [youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ](https://www.youtube.com/c/StMatthiasSomersetNJ)**

The **Church is open for individual prayer** Sun-Fri from 7:30 am to 7pm & Sat from 9 am to 7pm, unless another event is taking place (Mass, Funeral, Wedding, etc.)

### Sunday, Nov 15, 2020

#### Week 7 Fall into Faith Small Groups

10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM Communion outside front doors  
12:00PM Mass Church  
12:30PM Communion outside front doors  
1:00PM Next Level Regional Mtg. Cafeteria

### Monday, Nov 16, 2020

8:00AM Mass Church  
6:30PM Dee's Small Grp. Mtg. via Zoom

### Tuesday, Nov 17, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
7:00PM Baptism Prep Via Zoom

### Wednesday, Nov 18, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
7:00PM Bereavement Support Grp via Zoom  
7:00PM Confirmation 7 Parent Mtg. viaZoom  
7:00PM PRROP Committee Mtg. online

### Thursday, Nov 19, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
11:00AM Phyllis—Zoom Mtg. via Zoom  
11:00AM RCIA Inquiry Sessions via Zoom

### Friday, Nov 20, 2020

8:00AM Daily Mass Church  
9:00AM SMS School Donor Prayer Service Online  
6:00PM Friday Fall into Faith Grp via Zoom

### Saturday, Nov 21, 2020

#### Works of Mercy Campaign

#### Blessing of All Liturgical Ministers @ all Masses

8:30AM Liturgical Ministers Advent Day of Reflection Café & John XXIII Rm  
3:30-4:30PM Confessions Church  
5:00PM Mass Church

### Sunday, Nov 22, 2020

#### Works of Mercy Campaign

#### Blessing of All Liturgical Ministers @ all Masses

#### Last Fall into Faith Small Groups

All Day—SVDP Thanksgiving Gift Card Distribution

10:00AM Mass Church  
10:30AM Communion outside front doors  
10:30AM RCIA de Porres Rm  
**11:00+AM Super 50-50 Drawing** Church Area  
12:00PM Mass Church  
12:30PM Communion outside front doors  
2:00PM RCIA Inquiry Sessions via Zoom

## From the Pastor & the Pastoral Staff



In Matthew's parable of the Talents, all of the Master's wealthy investments were dealt out to be managed by three servants. Two out of the three servants yielded wonderful returns on the Master's investments. But the one servant, who was entrusted with only one talent, chose to bury it because he feared losing it.

Jesus, who is the greatest giver of gifts, expects us to use our talents and gifts in service to others. Sometimes out of fear or insecurities, we bury our talents! When faced with uncertainties and high stakes, instead of embracing the opportunity, we might become afraid, confused, doubtful, or fear failing. We might feel inadequate, incomplete, or incompetent. Sometimes instead of being filled with God's Spirit of love, we find our lives filled with the spirit of anger, jealousy, extreme competitiveness, selfishness, and other spirits that can zap our energy and even our lives. We might be living our life more out of fear, than out of our belief in God's unconditional love for us. I offer for your prayerful consideration two powerful reflections as you think about your gifts and abilities.

Pope Francis stated "*I ask: have you thought about the talents that God has given you? Have you thought about how you can put them at the service of others? Don't bury your talents! Bet on big ideals, those ideals that enlarge the heart, and those ideals that will make your talents fruitful. Life is not given to us so that we can keep it jealously for ourselves, but is given to us so that we may donate it. Dear young people, have a great soul! Don't be afraid to dream great things!*"

Our true identity and immeasurable self-worth comes from the God who created us. The author *Marianne Williamson* in her book, "*Return to Love*", writes: "*We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented and famous?" Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. You're playing small does not serve the world...We are born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It's not just in some of us; it's in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.*"

We all make different kinds of investments regarding money, time, job, relationships, and ourselves – all of which can either positively or negatively affect our spiritual life. God also makes investments. God invests in YOU!

The Scripture readings remind us to invest in GOD! It's never too late – even if we think we've made all the wrong choices. Never be afraid to use your gifts. God has your back!

Pray now that you'll make wise choices for using your talents to glorify God by your life.

Deacon John

## Readings for the Week

**Monday:** Rv 1:1-4; 2:1-5; Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6; Lk 18:35-43

**Tuesday:** Rv 3:1-6, 14-22; Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5; Lk 19:1-10

**Wednesday:** Rv 4:1-11; Ps 150:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6; Lk 19:11-28

**Thursday:** Rv 5:1-10; Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b; Lk 19:41-44

**Friday:** Rv 10:8-11; Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103, 111, 131; Lk 19:45-48

**Saturday:** Rv 11:4-12; Ps 144:1, 2, 9-10; Lk 20:27-40

**Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17; Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6; 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28; Mt 25:31-46

\*The Mass intentions will be fulfilled by Fr. Abraham and Fr. Joe as they celebrate private masses for these intentions, when we don't have a public mass scheduled. Everyone is welcome to join us in spirit as we pray for these intentions.

## Mass Intentions for the Week\*

<b>Saturday, Nov 14</b>	5:00PM	Ann. V. Banghart, by The Lanyi, Kantor & Banghart Families
<b>Sunday, Nov 15</b>	8:00AM	Florentina & Teresita Sabinosa, by Violy Garcia
	10:00AM	Hubert & Rita Fowler, by Teresa & Bruce Cuddeback
	12:00PM	Intention of Parishioners
	5:30PM	Wtadyslaw Wojcik, by daughter & son-in-law
<b>Monday, Nov 16</b>	8:00AM	Robert Petty, by Alicia Desordi
<b>Tuesday, Nov 17</b>	8:00AM	Sr. Jessy, Rest in Peace, by OSF Community
<b>Wednesday, Nov 18</b>	8:00AM	Birthday Blessings for Jim Stone, by Phyllis Stone
<b>Thursday, Nov 19</b>	8:00AM	Sr. Klara Ksel, Rest in Peace, by OSF Community
<b>Friday, Nov 20</b>	8:00AM	Val Fluta, by Flora Cowen
<b>Saturday, Nov 21</b>	5:00PM	Susan & James Shinnors, by Mary
<b>Sunday, Nov 22</b>	8:00AM	Bill Murphy, by Sandra Hayes Licitra
	10:00AM	Elizabeth & Raymond Burns, by son, Ken
	12:00PM	Gilberto Gavilanes, by The Gavilanes Family
	5:30PM	Intention of Parishioners

## Pray for those who are sick...

If you or a family member are sick, please **email Kelly Counts** at [kcoun@stmatthias.net](mailto:kcoun@stmatthias.net) to add the name to this list. Names will be listed in the bulletin for **6 weeks**. Please let us know if this time period needs to be extended. We want to know how you are doing and want to offer you the support of our prayers.

Elbren, Sr. & Natalia  
Agdeppo  
Rosemary Albaugh  
Robert Bachman  
Lourdes Banaag  
Edward Bauer  
Cecillia Bongga Alcantara  
Marion Bradford  
Dylan Braunstein  
Timothy Brennan  
Marie Brody  
Baby Isla-Rose Callahan  
Tara Capatosto  
Ellen Catalina  
Frank Catalina  
Barbara Coan  
Wes Coddington  
Lisa DeFeo  
Marie DeFeo  
Adoracion & Cenon  
DeGuzman  
Mary Ellen Delaney  
Alaina Derecola  
Nancy Diaz

Mary Dolan  
William Dolphin  
Dorothy Domenici  
Jaclyn, Ariana & Thomas  
Donlon  
Mary Eads  
Briana Edwards  
Anne Fortune  
Emma Gergely  
Rose Gessner  
Mary Gidaro  
Katherine Giustino  
John Gross  
Michael Hagerty  
Emma A. Himey  
Sloopy Hoffman  
Merla Isabelo  
Pamela Kannaire  
Allison Karakowski  
Michael Kirugi  
Millicent Kraft  
Herman Krueger  
Taylor LaCort  
William Lecorchick

Pat Leposa  
Alexander LiCausi  
The Litakis Family  
Alexander Maceven  
Kelly Magat  
Monique Marie Mageot  
Al Maglio  
Sue Maglio-Alese  
Patrick Mahoney  
Christine Matthews  
Anne McElwee  
Elizabeth Miller  
Dave Moynihan  
Baby Ezran Natural  
Cassian Ndukwu  
Patricia Nese  
Danny Ongchango  
Julianne Opydike  
Mafalda Parafioriti  
Julie Parks  
Jim Pettit  
Annie Powderly  
Samantha Renaud  
Datius Rutashoby

Rudy Schaar  
Maria Schwenzer  
Lena Sciotto  
Sr. Mary Amata Shina, OSF  
Sr. Rosaria Shina, OSF  
Encarnacion (Gina) So  
Alessandro Spagnolo  
Dennis Stuewe  
Juan Ulerio  
Denise Urquhart  
Fred & Carolyn  
Vanmiddlesworth  
Eulalia Villanueva  
Luzminda Villarica  
Mona Wilson  
Mark T. Worthington  
Edward Yeager

Everyone who is ill with Covid-19  
...and for all who are  
homebound, elderly, in nursing  
care, or living with chronic illness

## Pray for those who have died...

- "His mercy endures forever." Chronicles

# PRROP (Pandemic Recovery & Re-Engagement of Parish) Update

## Reflections from a Parishioner...

Covid-19 has had a serious impact on all of us including St. Matthias, but worrying never changes outcomes. So in this amazing time to avoid being stressed, I continually name my blessings, and one of these blessings is being a member of St. Matthias.

Since this faith community is a blessing to me, I welcomed the invitation to participate as a member of PRROP to assist our community. Although I have not been able to worship in the pew since March, I still feel very connected. The spiritual support and uplifting through liturgy, small group sharing's and friendships provide the strength to move forward and not seem stuck.

Over the years, I have been involved in many ministries (Pastoral Council, Finance Council, Diversity, Social Justice, St. Martin de Porres, Eucharistic Minister, PRROP, Tuition Angels, Carnival, etc.), so St. Matthias is family. It's a

community that is always there to support you in times of crisis, joy and celebration. Holy Week observances are so special, and along with many other activities, our parish is one of a kind. We need St. Matthias to continue to be a vibrant, giving and caring community. Knowing that St. Matthias gives and contributes to organizations like the Food Bank, Hands Together and Sr. Mary Vertucci motivates me to also give. So I request that you look at your ability to help sustain the community by increasing your donation if possible. This is a difficult time for all, but one thing I've learned is that the more I give, surprisingly, it is not missed.

Joan Pritchard



## Sunday Reflections



### Smile with Your Family



Upgrade mine: "Mom, our Sunday school teacher said that God made our brains and they are like computers; when is God going to upgrade mine?" 😊

Kidding?: Reaching the end of a job interview, the Human Resources Officer asks a young engineer fresh out of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, "And what starting salary are you looking for?" The engineer replies, "In the region of \$125,000 a year, depending on the benefits package." The interviewer inquires, "Well, what would you say to a package of five weeks' vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental, company matching retirement fund to 50% of salary, and a company car leased every two years, say, a red Corvette?" The engineer sits up and says, "Wow! Are you kidding?" The interviewer replies, "Yeah, but you started it." 😊

"I'm under five!" A little boy in church for the first time watched as the ushers passed around the offering plates. When they came near his pew, the boy said loudly, "Don't pay for me, Daddy, I'm under five." 😊

Patience: "That was a great sermon today — on patience," one friend commented to another as they walked to their cars after church. "Yeah," the other agreed, "but it was 5 minutes too long."

### Give it Your Best Shot!

Tom Dempsey was born without a right hand and with only half a right foot. Tom went to school and played football. He even played on a junior college team in California. In time he began to place kick for the team. He got so good that eventually he was signed by the New Orleans Saints. On November 8, 1970, the Saints were trailing Detroit 17-16 with two seconds to go. They had the ball on the Detroit 45 yard line. New Orleans coach J. D. Roberts tapped Tom on the shoulder and said, "Go out there and give it your best shot!" The holder set the ball down eight yards behind the line of scrimmage, instead of seven, to give Dempsey a split second more time to get the ball off. This put the ball 63 yards from

the uprights. The rest of the story is history. Tom's half a right foot made perfect contact. Tom later said in Newsweek Magazine: "I couldn't follow the ball that far. But I saw the official's arms go up, and I can't describe how great I felt." The Saints won the game 19-17, and Dempsey shattered the NFL field goal record by seven yards.

**What does this story have to do with today's Scripture readings – especially Jesus' point in today's Gospel? We need to trust God enough to make use of the gifts and abilities we have been given. Some of us are clearly very gifted with valuable abilities, but there is no one, absolutely no one, who can**

**say he has been gifted with nothing. We may be especially talented in teaching children or cooking meals or repairing homes or programming computers. So we should ask ourselves how we are using our particular gifts in the service of our Christian community and the wider society. Why not follow the example of people who use their God-given talents the best way possible, like, for instance, nursing assistants who take great pride in keeping their patients clean and comfortable, or carpenters who gain enormous satisfaction from building quality homes, or teachers who find joy in the discoveries of the classroom, or attorneys who keep the goal of justice at the very center of their practices?**

# Sunday Reflections

## Sunday Reflection: A General's New Mission

The parable of the talents: **"For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will grow rich; but from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away." Matthew 25: 14-30**

*"Green Berets don't get post-traumatic stress disorder. Especially generals. You don't seek help. You tough it out."* That's what Brigadier General Donald Bolduc thought. But shortly after returning from eight combat tours, General Bolduc began suffering from severe headaches. He was moody, he couldn't sleep - even his balance was off. It took 12 years from his first battlefield trauma for him to seek help. But at his wife's urging, he did the unthinkable in the hyper macho culture of the military: he sought medical help. He learned that he not only suffered from PTSD, but he also had a bullet-size spot on his brain, an injury probably suffered in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2005 that the general walked away from.

After three years of treatment, General Bolduc is doing well. He is now commander of American Special Operations Forces, battling terrorist groups in Africa - and he has become an evangelist for letting soldiers in his command know that it's all right to get help for mental health problems and brain injuries. He makes it clear to his soldiers - who are stationed in some of the world's most dangerous places - that seeking help will not hurt their careers. To their CO, PTSD is the same as a broken arm. "The powerful thing is that I can use myself as an example," the 54-year-old general says. "And thank goodness not everybody can do that. But I'm able to do it, so that has some sort of . . . credibility to it."

General Bolduc's initiative is helping bring an end of the stigma attached to seeking help for PTSD. Other high-ranking officers are coming forward, as well, talking openly about their struggles with post-combat stress and brain injuries. The Defense Department estimates that a quarter of all injuries suffered by U.S. military in Afghanistan and Iraq were brain injuries and as many as 20 percent of veterans of those two conflicts experience post-traumatic stress disorder. General Bolduc tells his personal story every time a new soldier comes into his command and urges anyone experiencing the same kind of symptoms to get help.

Recently, General Bolduc was visiting a team under his command who had just returned from battle. He asked how many of them had been close to blasts, bombs and mortar shells. Everyone raised a hand. He asked how many had sought treatment. No one's hand went up. General Bolduc told them his own story. All of the men decided to get exams. Doctors found a tumor in one soldier's brain, and he was flown to Walter Reed in Washington for treatment.

**An Army general uses his experience and position to confront a serious medical and psychological issue affecting thousands of soldiers. He devotes the "talents" entrusted to him - leadership, experience, courage - to realize a harvest of hope and healing, to bring light to those lost in a darkness of illness and fear. The parable of the talents focuses on the critical question of not what we possess in terms of talent and ability but on our willingness to use those skills to make the Kingdom of God a reality here and now. We may have the skills to lead men and women into combat - or we may be able to bring healing to others by our simple but under-appreciated ability to listen to them in their pain; we may have the opportunity to influence the lives of many people - or we may be a good mom or dad to our own children; we may have the skills to manage big organizations that accomplish much good - or we may take a regular turn at the local soup kitchen. The Spirit of God prompts us to use whatever our "talents" for the common good, for bringing healing to the broken and hope to the struggling, for making the peace of Kingdom of God a reality in our time and place.**

## Today is World Day of the Poor!

The World Day of the Poor is celebrated on the 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time since 2017. It was established by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Misericordia et Misera*, issued on 20 November 2016 to celebrate the end of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy.

The theme for this year's World Day of the Poor is "Stretch forth your hand to the poor", taken from the book of Sirach. Drawing from this text, Pope Francis observes that "its author presents his advice concerning many concrete situations in life, one of which is poverty. He insists that even amid hardship we must continue to trust in God." The Pope points out that from these pages we see, "prayer to God and solidarity with the poor and suffering are inseparable." He also notes that "time devoted to prayer can never become an alibi for neglecting our neighbor in need."

Devoting a significant part of his message to the Covid-19 pandemic, Pope Francis draws attention to the many "outstretched hands" in the form of doctors and nurses who have been caring for patients in these difficult months. He also commends the outstretched hands of administrators, pharmacists, priests, volunteers and others who have given of themselves day and night and without fanfare. "The present experience," says the Pope, "has challenged many of our assumptions. We feel poorer and less self-sufficient because we have come to sense our limitations and the restriction of our freedom." "The loss of employment, and of opportunities to be close to our loved ones and our regular acquaintances, suddenly opened our eyes to horizons that we had long since taken for granted." However, Pope Francis stresses, "now is a good time to recover 'the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world'." In a word, he continues, "until we revive our sense of responsibility for our neighbor and for every person, grave economic, financial and political crises will continue."



# Sunday Reflections



## Using One's Talents

Booker T. Washington started life as a black American slave. At the age of sixteen, he walked almost five hundred miles from his slave home to Hampton Institute in Virginia. When he got there, he was told that classes were already filled. But that didn't stop him. He took a job at the school doing menial jobs:

sweeping floors and making beds and anything they wanted just so he could be around the environment of learning. He did these jobs so well that the faculty found room for him as a student. He worked his way up at the school, became a famous teacher, the first black faculty member at Hampton Institute. He became a writer and the author of *Up From Slavery*. He was a popular public speaker. And he eventually founded Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, where he brought George Washington Carver to teach and do all his research which changed and improved farming techniques.

**Booker T. Washington had enough excuse not to pursue his God-given talents but he persisted and we all gained from it. The third servant in today's gospel (Matthew 25:14-30) decided to avoid risk-taking and showed too much caution with money. His excuse was that, after all, he had not been given explicit orders about how to do his investing. Besides, any type of business is risky and the master might hold him accountable for any loss. He probably knew the long-standing rabbinic teaching that anyone who buries money that has been put into his care is no longer liable for its safety. Through this description of a lazy servant Jesus teaches us that there is no "safe" position in life. Christian living is strenuous business involving occasional risk-taking. God expects us to use our every talent for personal growth, community service and religious witness. Hence, this parable reminds us of the terrible punishments which lie in store for those who do not produce new spiritual wealth from the talents God has placed in their stewardship. Traditionalists who fear the gift of the Second Vatican Council and a changing church, and want to keep their treasure intact through a return to outdated rituals and arcane theology, are represented by the lazy servant.**

## Sharing the Best You Have!

Mother Theresa of Calcutta was summoned to the court on the charges of converting children to the Catholic faith. When she stood in the dock, the judge asked her if the charges were true. She asked for a baby to be given to her. She held the baby in her arms and said, "This child I picked up from the dust bin; I don't know to what religion this child belongs or what language it speaks... I give this child my love, my time, my care, my food... but the best thing that I have in my life is the faith in Jesus Christ. Can't I give this child the best I have in my life?" The case was dismissed in favor of Mother Theresa.



## The Man Who Did Not Bury His Talent!

Antonio Stradivari was born in Cremona, Italy, in 1644. Because Antonio's voice was high and squeaky, he did not pass the audition for the Cremona Boys' Choir. When he took violin lessons, the neighbors persuaded his parents to make him stop. Yet Antonio still wanted to make music. His friends made fun of him because his only talent was wood-carving. When Antonio was 22 he became an apprentice to a well-known violinmaker, Nicholas Amati. Under his master's training Antonio's knack for carving grew, and his hobby became his craft. He started his own violin shop when he was 36. He worked patiently and faithfully. By the time he died at 93, he had built over 1,500 violins, each one bearing a label that read, "Antonius Stradivarius Cremonensis Faciebat Anno....." ("Antonio Stradivarius of Cremona made in the year...") They are the most sought-after violins in the world and sell for more than \$100,000 each. Antonio couldn't sing or play or preach or teach but he used the ability he had, and his violins are still making beautiful music today.



**Antonio is a challenge to people who have only a single talent and who try to bury the talent for fear of failure -- like the lazy servant in Jesus' parable. The lazy and the unproductive will be punished. Even the person with only one talent has something to offer to others. If he fails to do some positive good work he will lose what he has. If he tries and fails he will meet compassion and forgiveness. God blesses generous sharers and punishes the selfish hoarders. Those who share generously the gifts they have been given are likely to find themselves constantly and immeasurably enriched, while those who jealously and selfishly preserve, out of fear, what they have been given, will lose it. In short, the parable outlines the result of abundant, grace-filled stewardship of God's resources.**

## Marriage Tune-Up

"When one finds a worthy wife [husband] their value is far beyond pearls [money]." (Proverbs 31:10) Although this scripture traditionally refers to wives, it works equally well for husbands. Pause for a moment and ponder the worth of your beloved.



## Parenting Tune-Up



Even with natural talent, it takes work to develop it. Help your child identify one talent this week, and one way they can improve it. Often this includes the "P" word - Practice. (Mt 25: 14-30)



# Sunday Reflections:

## Rev. Fr. Ed Flanagan Passed Away!



**Fr. Ed Flanagan, Pastor of Nativity Parish in Monroe Twp, passed away on November 8, after bravely facing cancer. About three months ago, when he realized that he was getting more bad prognosis of his situation, he wrote a beautiful letter to his parishioners. I wish to reproduce it here as Fr. Ed reminds us of an invaluable lesson about accepting death not as something to be feared but to be welcomed. I'm sure you too will be touched by his letter as I was. I have great admiration for him as a brother priest, for his courage, forthrightness and pastoral zeal. May he Rest In Peace! — Fr. Abraham.**

Last week I met with my entire team at MSK (the oncologist, neurologist, and radiologist). After several MRI's and CAT scans it was determined that the cancer has spread further in my body. Despite that I had a spinal tap performed back in January the cancer has now managed to travel to the fluid in my spine. I immediately was scheduled for radiation sessions as I was in excruciating pain. This indeed brought needed relief to my condition. This, of course, brings extreme fatigue, dehydration, and exhaustion. I am also walking with cane to provide me with a sense of balance. The team was also in agreement that I immediately contact Hospice. Reaching out to not only prepare for what lies ahead but provides

me with compassionate care. There appears to be no solution to my predicament. We can no longer operate on my brain nor receive further radiation. I am not afraid of death. The spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen, once said "death is not the enemy who puts an end to everything, but the friend who takes us by the hand and leads into the Kingdom of Eternal Love." Continue to accompany me with the gift of prayer. Pray for the forgiveness of my sins, the ability to surrender my spirit into the loving embrace of the Triune God and the hope which assures me of the resurrection from the dead.  
Pax, Fr. Ed

Dear Parish Family  
The peace of Lord Be with you this day!

# Celebrating Our Faith: Liturgy



## St. Matthias Is in Need of LITURGY ANGELS...

...more volunteers to help at mass:

- Ministers of Hospitality - greeting and seating people
- Eucharistic Ministers - serving communion
- Mass Safety Captains - overseeing the safety of the mass (checking sanitizing supplies, directing volunteers who sanitize pews, etc.)
- Environment - decorating the cafeteria and the John XXIII room for overflow Advent and Christmas masses.

Watch future bulletins for sign-up instructions through Sign-up Genius or contact Phyllis Stone @ [pstone@stmatthias.net](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net), (732) 828-1400 ext 127 and pray to discern where God is calling you.

## Music Ministry

Today we give thanks for those parishioners who give their time and talent to our Music Ministry. Although only our cantors can sing with our assembly at Mass right now (and we are so grateful to them), our choirs continue to connect with each other weekly and pray together for you, the Faith Community of St. Matthias. Our Children's Choir has been rehearsing on Thursday afternoons, masked, outdoors or in church - physically distanced, getting ready for the time when we can all sing together again safely.

In the meantime, the songs of our faith resonate in our living rooms and in our hearts. "Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can we keep from singing!"



## Are You Interested in Becoming Catholic?

Your Journey of Faith Begins With Your Questions...

- AM I INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?
- DO I WANT TO BE IN FULL COMMUNION WITH THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?
- AM I A TEEN OR ADULT DESIRING THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION?

...and culminates at Easter with the grace of the sacraments of initiation – Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation -

JOIN ONE OF THE NEXT RCIA INQUIRY SESSIONS BY ZOOM

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH FROM 11AM - 12PM OR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22ND FROM 2PM - 3PM**

RSVP TO Phyllis Stone @ [pstone@stmatthias.net](mailto:pstone@stmatthias.net) or by calling the Parish Office, (732) 828-1400, ext 127



# Discovering God: Formation

## Message of Pope Francis for the Fourth World Day of the Poor — 15 November 2020

The Pope's statement begins with: "Stretch forth your hand to the poor" (Sir 6:7). Age-old wisdom has proposed these words as a sacred rule to be followed in life. Today these words remain as timely as ever. They help us fix our gaze on what is essential and overcome the barriers of indifference. Poverty always appears in a variety of guises, and calls for attention to each particular situation. In all of these, we have an opportunity to encounter the Lord Jesus, who has revealed himself as present in the least of his brothers and sisters (cf. Mt 25:40)..."

To read the complete statement, go to: [http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco\\_20200613\\_messaggio-iv-giornatamondiale-poveri-2020.html](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20200613_messaggio-iv-giornatamondiale-poveri-2020.html)

## Being Good Stewards



### Super 50/50 Raffle to Be Held on Sunday, November 22

The total as of Wednesday, Nov. 4, is **\$22,434**.  
**Last date to place Super 50-50 tickets in the collection basket is THIS weekend: November 14/15.**  
 Deadline for buying Super 50-50 tickets is **2 pm, Thursday, November 19 in the Parish Office.**

### Merchant Discount Card Available for All



The Home School Association is excited to announce that this year we will be offering local discount cards in place of coupon books. Each card will be \$10.

For school families, every card you sell will earn you \$2 towards your HSA commitment.

Please use the following Sign Up Genius link below to request how many cards you wish to purchase:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A094BAAAE28AAF94-smsdiscount>  
 Please list your child's name and homeroom, if you are an SMS family. Payment can be sent to the SMS HSA PayPal account: <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/StMatthiasHSA?>

(1760 Easton Ave) 10% off any catering of \$100 or more	(441 Elizabeth Ave) 15% off	(456 Elizabeth Ave) 10% off
(Franklin Twp) 15% off	(120 Cedar Grove Ln) 10% off	(149 Pierce St) 10% off
(175 Worlds Fair Dr) 10% off a public ice skate & skate rental	(458 Elizabeth Ave) 10% off	(18 Cedar Grove Ln) 10% off
(3309 Nu-37) 10% off food & ice cream	(3701 Easton Ave) 10% off dry clean only	(875 Hamilton St) 10% off most expensive item
\$10 off \$50 Dicks Exp 12/31/20	<b>THANK YOU</b>	

MUST PRESENT CARD AT TIME OF PURCHASE • NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS, DISCOUNTS, OR SPECIALS • LIMIT 1 OFFER PER MERCHANT PER PERSON PER DAY • DISCOUNTS ARE OFF MENU/RETAIL PRICE • BUY 1 GET 1 FREE OFFERS ARE OF EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE • EXCLUDES ALCOHOL, TAX, AND GRATUITY • GOOD ONLY AT LOCATIONS LISTED • OFFERS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE • ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS MAY APPLY

These cards may be purchased by anyone. You may use the discount once a day per merchant at the locations listed, until the expiration date stated. Details are on the card.

### EVERYONE Is Encouraged to Purchase Gift Cards Online to Help Our School AT NO COST TO YOU!

We have over 750 gift cards currently available online. No need to stop by the office, nor to touch anything. Instead, when you go shopping or to a restaurant, buy the gift card on your phone, and then pay for your items by showing the cashier your phone. The cashier will scan the gift card on your phone. And St. Matthias School will receive a percentage of the gift card price, at no cost to you. Here are the steps:

1. Go to your phone's App store and download "RaiseRight Fundraising" (If you are on a computer, go [www.raiseright.com](http://www.raiseright.com) and follow the prompts.)
2. Click on "Join a Program"
3. Enter the following Enrollment Code to help St. Matthias School: **A68921F9388**
4. Then follow the prompts, skipping the optional boxes.



Remember to use **RaiseRight** every time you shop. Also, invite friends/family/neighbors to purchase these gift cards. Questions? Contact Melissa Rizzo, [melissamillerrizzo@gmail.com](mailto:melissamillerrizzo@gmail.com).

### Stewardship Quote of the Week

"I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God's failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of His work. He has never failed in His promise, so I cannot fail in my service to Him."

— **William Carey**

# Being Good Stewards

## Do You Have Experience in Marketing? In Development? Volunteers Are Needed for the Marketing & Development Committees of the School Advisory Council (SAC)

Do you have some free time to volunteer? Both the Marketing Committee and the Development Committee for the school are looking for members. Membership is open to all parishioners, plus others, who have expertise and an interest in helping our school.

We are looking for people to help with several short projects within each committee. This is a chance to do some hands-on work, applying your gifts and talents, for a very good cause. Please consider volunteering!

To learn more, contact **Kristy Landmesser, Marketing Committee Chair**, at [kls818@gmail.com](mailto:kls818@gmail.com), **Laura Beck, Development Committee Chair**, at [ljane.beck@comcast.net](mailto:ljane.beck@comcast.net) or **Sheila Connelly, SAC President**, at [sheilacnj@gmail.com](mailto:sheilacnj@gmail.com).

### Stewardship Reflection Nov 15, 2020 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you have been faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities.” - Matthew 25:21**

God calls us to nurture and develop the gifts He has given us and then generously return a portion with increase. He doesn't want us to waste or hoard the gifts He has given us. He expects us to grow our gifts, use them wisely and be generous with them. Unfortunately, many of us are not generous in proportion to all that God has given us.

### Reflexiones — 15 de noviembre de 2020 33º domingo del tiempo ordinario

**“Bien hecho, mi buen y fiel servidor. Como has sido fiel en los pequeños asuntos, te daré grandes responsabilidades”. - MATEO 25:21**

Dios nos llama a nutrir y desarrollar los dones que nos ha dado y luego devolver generosamente una porción con aumento. No quiere que desperdiciemos ni acumulemos los dones que nos ha dado. Él espera que hagamos crecer nuestros dones, que los usemos sabiamente y seamos generosos con ellos. Desafortunadamente, muchos de nosotros no somos generosos en proporción a todo lo que Dios nos ha dado.

Stewardship Totals for Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021				Last Year's Total
Current Month	In-Pew/Mail	Parish Giving	Weekly Total	Weekly Total
Week 18 - Nov. 1, 2020	\$12,941.00	\$10,527.50	<b>\$23,468.50</b>	\$19,910.00
Week 19 - Nov. 8, 2020	\$10,009.53	\$10,182.55	<b>\$20,192.08</b>	\$15,931.00
Week 20 - Nov. 15, 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$16,139.00
Week 21 - Nov. 22, 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$15,893.00
Week 22 - Nov. 29, 2020	\$0.00	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$19,068.00
			<b>Month-to-date Total</b>	<b>Nov Total Last Yr</b>
			<b>\$43,660.58</b>	\$86,941.00
			<b>Current Year-to-date Total</b>	<b>Year-to-date as of</b>
			<b>\$444,694.09</b>	\$555,459.76

# Caring for Others



### 2020 Giving Tree

The holidays will be quickly upon us meaning it is time to think about the annual Giving Tree. Due to the Covid restrictions, we will be giving our "gifts" through a virtual/online tree this year.

Within the next few weeks, we will be posting information regarding the participating organizations on the St. Matthias website and in the weekly bulletin. Please stay tuned for additional information and details. If you have questions in the interim, kindly send an email to [j-diana@comcast.net](mailto:j-diana@comcast.net).

### Caregiver/Care Support Ministry Meeting

We'd like to invite parishioners who are caring for ill loved ones, or are coping with chronic illness themselves, and in need of spiritual and emotional support, to join us for discussion and prayer via Zoom

**DATE: Saturday, December 5th**

**TIME: 10am - 11 noon**

**PLACE: Via Zoom**

Please contact: Donna Kahora: [friendsofnikki@comcast.net](mailto:friendsofnikki@comcast.net) or Sister Marie Therese: [msherwood@stmatthias.net](mailto:msherwood@stmatthias.net) 732-828-1400 for Zoom details if you are interested in joining us.

# Connecting with Our Local Community



## Clothing Drive for Veterans

The Jersey Blue Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution is conducting a clothing drive to benefit the veterans at the New Jersey Memorial Veterans Home at Menlo Park. The date is **November 24th from 10:00am to 2:00pm**. **Items needed are new unused sweat-pants and T-shirts in size Large and XL.**

Items can be placed in the collection box located on the back porch of Buccleuch Mansion which is located inside Buccleuch Park. The address is 321 Easton Ave., New Brunswick, 08901. You may contact Susan Luczu at [jerseybludar.regent36@gmail.com](mailto:jerseybludar.regent36@gmail.com).



## Part-time Custodian Position Available:

If you have custodial experience and are interested, please contact our Business Administrator, Mary Beth Oria, at 732-828-1400; ext. 121



## Pray for Life November 2020 National Adoption Month

Intersession:

May each expectant mother making an adoption plan receive support and care of the Christian community as she makes a loving choice for her child.



## Rental Relief Funding Still Available for COVID – Impacted Tenants

**Eligible tenants can apply for rental relief funding from the county's Community Development Office.**

Somerset County is using federal CARES Act funding to establish the Emergency Rental Relief Program (ERRP) to help households that lost income due to the COVID-19 pandemic make monthly rent payments. The majority of the ERRP will be paid directly to landlords, with additional funding used to help families by paying for legal representation to residents currently in Landlord/Tenant Court. In order to receive assistance, eligible residents must complete an application and submit the required documentation. Go to: <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/CDBG-CVERR>.

To learn more about Somerset County's Community Development Office, please visit <https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/community-development>

## Parish Leadership

### Parish Pastoral Council:

**Chair:** Nick Grippo  
[nickgrippo@gmail.com](mailto:nickgrippo@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Lisa Robinson  
[lar0504@comcast.net](mailto:lar0504@comcast.net)

**Secretary:**  
Tom Aussem

### Co-Secretary:

Denise Brown  
Lorraine Farr  
Anne Marie Francis  
Claudine Langrin  
Garrett Linderoth  
Joe Percoco

Rose Peng  
Marybeth Purcell  
John Taylor  
Ana Kelly, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

### Parish Finance Council:

Joe Porter, Chair  
**Finance council**  
[@stmatthias.net](mailto:stmatthias.net)

Susan Klimcsak  
Barry Dusault  
Gwen Orłowski  
Audrey Francis

Kester Hector  
Mary Beth Oria, Ex-Officio  
Fr. Abraham, Ex-Officio

**Trustees:**  
Isaac Peng  
Marge Richards

## About St. Matthias (please contact the staff members on the cover for up-to-date information)

**Parish Registration** — Welcome new members! Please register by calling the Parish

**Baptism** — Baptismal Preparation Sessions are held four times a year for registered parishioners. Please contact the parish office before the baby is born. The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the second and fourth Sunday of each month, except during Lent.

**Marriage** — Registered parishioners should contact the parish office a year before the desired wedding date.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

The RCIA process is an opportunity for instruction and spiritual transformation for any adult seeking a deeper understanding of the Catholic tradition or

full incorporation into the Catholic Church. If you are interested in becoming a Catholic or completing the Sacraments of Initiation-- Baptism/ Confirmation/Eucharist, please call the Parish Office.

### Stewardship

Stewardship is a way of life, a way of thanking God for all our blessings by returning a portion of the time, talent and treasure allotted to us. Whether it is clothes for the poor, food for the hungry, outreach to youth, in education, in worship, or simply arms stretched out to someone who is lonely, the Catholic Community of St. Matthias encourages everyone to become stewards of the gifts they have been given by God, returning a portion in gratitude to God for the work of ministry

here at St. Matthias and beyond our local community.



**St. Matthias School** is a PreK3 through 8<sup>th</sup> grade school rooted in faith, inspired by love, and dedicated to academic excellence. Before and After School Care Programs are available. Come visit! Contact 732-828-1402 to schedule a tour.

### Bulletin Article Requests

Please email proposed bulletin articles to [bulletin@stmatthias.net](mailto:bulletin@stmatthias.net) by 6 pm, Wednesday, 10 days before the intended issue (earlier for holiday weekends).